due to any constraint and in very exceptional cases due to accidents, breaches, civil commotion or heavy congestion etc.

(c) As the railways have supplied 43896 unconnected coal wagons to U.P. State Electricity Board against their 35345 missing wagons, the payment of their claim for missing wagons does not arise.

Linking of Noida/Greater Noida with Railway

266. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the survey report to link Noida and Greater Noida with Railways network;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not , the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get the survey report expeditely ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Railway has been advised to get the survey expedited.

[English]

Airport Security Force

267. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the creation of Airport Security Force for airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (d) The Proposal to set up an exclusive aviation security organisation to guard some of the airports is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Bird hit incidents

268. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bird hit incidents occured during 1996 and upto October, 1997;

(b) the details of amount spent on repairing the aircrafts damaged, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) There have been 149 incidents of bird hit during 1996 and 117 incidents during 1997 (upto October) to the Indian Civil registered aircraft.

(b) An amount of Rs.8.92 crores was spent on the repairs of the aircraft of Air India and Indian Airlines during 1996 and Rs.30.9 lakhs during 1997 (upto October).

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent bird strikes and to provide safe air journeys:

1. Proper collection and disposal of garbage using polythene bags. 2. Covering of garbage dumps. 3. Installation of incinerators. 4. Prevention of illegal deskinning of animals in the open. 5. Setting up of carcass Utilisation centre. 6. Establishment of modern abattoirs. 7. Removal of slums,unauthorised piggeries and dairy farms from around the airports. 8. Prevention of water logging inside the airports. 9. Pigeon proofing of hangars. 10. Scaring off and shooting of birds within the airfield. 11. Information to pilots by Traffic Controllers about presence of birds. 12. Amendment of aircraft approach and departure procedures. 13 . Amendment of Aircraft Act to make violation of Aircraft Rules regarding disposal of garbage a cognizable offence. 14. Frequent joint inspection by concerned authorities of areas within and around airports.

[English]

Purchase of 50 Seater Aircrafts

269. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had to purchase some 50 seater aircrafts;

(b) if so, the companies which are setting these aircrafts;

(c) the number of 50 seater aircrafts proposed to be purchased and the cost of each aircraft;

(d) whether the deal has been finalised; and

(e) if so, the date by which these aircrafts are expected to be supplied to the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines is considering the acquistion six 50 seater turboprop aircraft. The companies along with the names of aircraft which have been short-listed are given below :

	Name of the Campany	Aircraft
1.	Aero International (Regionale) France	ATR 42-500
2.	Bombardier Regional Aircraft Canada	Dash 8-300
3.	Saab Aircraft International Ltd. Sweden	Saab 2000

Based on the present offers, estimated cost of each aircraft is about US$ 16 million.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The offers received from the three manufacturers are under evaluation/negotiation.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Train on Metre Gauge

270. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of the extention of railway services by introducing new train on the metre gauge rail line in the Neemach-Mah railway section under Ratlam railway division in the Western Railway during each of the last three years, till August, 1997;

(b) the details of the metre gauge and broad gauge passenger coaches and railway engines made available to the Ratlam Division under the Western Railway during each of the last three years till 1997; and

(c) the measures taken for the expansion and maintenance of metre gauge passenger railway services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 69/70 Indore-Mhow Passenger has been introduced on Nimach-Mhow section w.e.f. 05.02.96.

(b) During the last 3 years no additional locos have been provided for passenger service to Ratlam Division.

From 1995 to Oct.'97, 91 BG additional coaches were provided to Ratlam Division.

(c) With the progress of gauge conversion work, the requirement of M.G. coaches is coming down but the available coaches are being maintained upto the required standards. Important measures launched by Railways for improving the condition of coaches like renovation of rakes, deployment of high pressure jet cleaning machines, intensive cleaning of rakes etc. being implemented on metre gauage also. 100 MG coaches have also been included in the coach refurnishing plan to provide one tie major inputs.

[English]

Fare concessions by Indian Airlines

271. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of fare concessions admissible to senior citizens, sportsmen and school teachers while traveling by Indian Airlines flights as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : The following fare concessions are admissible to senior citizens and soprtsmen while travelling by Indian Airlines flight :

(i) 50% discount to all persons who have completed 65 years of age on the date of commencement of their travel. The discount is available to Economy Class on all Indian Airlines domestic services, except on Agati-Cochin sector.

(ii) (a) Free passages to winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, at the Asiad, Olympics/ Commonwealth Games etc. from Home-Town to venue of the national tournaments, once a year.

(b) Free passages to all Indian Athletes and sports persons participating in recognised world championships held in India, from home town to the venue of Games and back.

(c) Free passages to Ms. P.T. Usha and her coach, from home -town to the venue of the coaching centre.

(d) 25% concession to the sports persons from the North-Eastern Region who are participating in the National sports events from Calcutta/Guwahati to a station within the North Eastern Region.